

contributing from time to time specimens of natural history which have a general as well as a professional interest.

"What about the medical staff, Miss Norman; there is too, I believe, a school attached to the Hospital?"

"Well, there is always accommodation here for 1,000 patients, but should it ever be necessary, the number could be very much increased. The medical staff, accordingly, varies in proportion to the work to be done. The candidate wishing to become an army medical officer must already be a full fledged doctor before he is considered eligible to sit for the necessary competitive examination. Should he successfully pass, he has then to go through a course of instruction in his work with special applications to the exigencies of army life. The lectures are given here under the tuition of four professors. The Nurses of the army have their head quarters here, and may be drafted off at any time to fulfil their duties in Egypt or the Mediterranean. It may interest you to hear that no lady is admitted as Nurse in this Hospital unless she has had fully three years training in a general Hospital."

We were again within Miss Norman's drawing-room corridor—if such an expression may be used. A raised couch by the open window, well filled dwarf book-cases; plants growing with great good humour and vigour; easy chairs, and bright pictures on the wall, besides the view framed by the windows all looked extraordinarily tempting and cheerful.

"Yes, said my hostess, "no matter how worried I get with the management of Hospital details, as soon as I put my feet back here I feel at once a returning peace and calm. But come, let us discuss some tea. We are quite proud of our rolled bread and butter. Sister is positively delighted that I cannot do it, and that, therefore, I am dependent upon her."

"Miss Norman, I mean to take this opportunity of asking you about your own career; you must have had a very interesting one; and I believe you have some medals."

My hostess smiled and said "I would much prefer that you only mention the Hospital; besides my medals can interest no one but myself."

"You are absolutely mistaken, I am quite sure that your professional career would be intensely interesting to all the readers of the NURSING RECORD."

"Well, Well, I can tell you everything in a very

few words. It is now nearly thirteen years ago that I first began Nursing at St. Mary's, Paddington. About two years later I went to Egypt to help nurse the soldiers wounded in the campaign, and then received the Royal Red Cross. In time of war of course the nursing resources of the army are taxed to the utmost. I became much interested in nursing our army men, and in things military, and so in October 1883 I entered Netley as a Nursing Sister. In 1885 the Suakim Expedition was dispatched: and in 1884 it again fell to my lot to go on foreign service. I served first at the Base Hospital, Suakim; and later, on the Hospital Ship. It was on this occasion that I received the medal and clasp of Suakim, and the Khedive's Bronze Star."

For the benefit of readers it might be as well to explain that the Suakin medal has on the obverse side the Queen's head with the words "Victoria Regina et Imperatrix," and on the reverse a representation of the sphinx with the word "Suakin." Blue ribbon attached. On the clasp the word "Suakin" is inscribed. The Khedive's bronze Star is five pointed. The obverse has a sphinx in the centre with pyramids in the background. Reverse, a crown with the Khedive's monogram underneath. Blue ribbon attached.

"And then, Miss Norman?"

"At length, I came back to England and served here till October, 1886, when I was appointed Senior Sister in Charge of the Military Hospital, Gibraltar. I remained there three years, and then received my appointment as Lady Superintendent of Nurses at the R. V. Hospital, Netley, where I have been ever since."

"Thank you very much; that is indeed *multum in parvo*. Perhaps, some day, you will give us some of your experiences of Nursing when on active service," I said hesitatingly, and rising to go.

"We'll see," said my hostess, laughing, as we passed through the drawing room, the treasures within which were at once accounted for by what had just been related. "At any rate, while you are in the neighbourhood, you should just take a bird's-eye view of the Hospital from the pier, and then have a look at the monument not far from it which was erected in honour of the Medical Officers who were killed in the Crimean War. The foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales in August, 1864."

A short stroll in the grounds worthy in every respect of the grand object for which they were put apart soon brought to an end a most enjoyable day.

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